

Contents

◆ MG – President's Update	1
◆ MP – Manager Report.....	3
◆ GB – Online Manager Report.....	3
◆ Major Competitions on Thursday Nights	4
◆ RB Club Open Pairs Championship	5
◆ RB Falls Estate Mixed Teams	5
◆ EL labour day MP Pairs Congress	6
◆ EL Interclub (teams & Pairs)	7
◆ 2023 Draft Congress Days.....	7
◆ 2023 Draft Thursday Nights	8
◆ 2022 Monthly Table Statistics	10

◆ MG – President's Update



Okay, something a little different from me this month.

My uncle Nigel passed away last week. This isn't a sad story, in fact it's a very happy story because he had a wonderful life and guess what? He was a bridge player.

If reincarnation is a thing, then I suggest we all get in line to come back as Nigel Guthrie, or as he called himself online for decades "Nige1".

Nigel was my father's older brother, and he learnt bridge from my grandad, just the same as I did when I was about 10. I remember playing with Nigel back then and thinking it was great that he seemed to have picked bridge up the same as me, without realising that he was actually a professional bridge player. He won many of the big events in the UK in his career, but he won far more fans from how nice he was to partners and opponents.

I believe in two conspiracy theories. Neither of which I have a shred of evidence for. The first is the David Bowie isn't dead. He got fed up with the fame, faked his own death and now lives on an island somewhere with Prince. (*I do actually believe this.*)

While I like that theory, I believe more in the second one. My Uncle Nigel, when he wasn't playing bridge, worked in technology. In his last few months, he was confined to a hospital bed and had access to a laptop. He actually won a major event, the Scottish Bridge Union National Pairs this year, literally from his death bed playing online, but I think his main project was uploading himself to BBO so he can continue to play bridge without needing his

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Committee	Ian MacLaren	0418 680 879 imhmaclaren@bigpond.com
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Teacher	Anita Curtis	ac210927@bigpond.net.au
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Teacher	Liz Wilkinson	0433 389 952
Teacher/Director	John Newman	
Teacher/Director	Sue Crompton	0416 290 867
Teacher/Director	Jamie Thompson	0491 127 604

body. *(I would very much like to believe this one too.)*

Nigel was supposed to become a doctor, but he spent so much time playing bridge at university that they ended up kicking him out. I believe the last straw was one day when he had played bridge until late in the night and turned up at the hospital to do the rounds with his pyjamas sticking out from under his trousers because he had dressed in a rush. I'm sure he would have made a brilliant doctor, but that was never his path.

Nigel used to have his own language, at least that is how it appeared to the Muggles. As bridge players we would have understood him perfectly. He referred to everyone as "Partner". In the bridge world he called his opponents partner, and in the real world he called family, friends, and strangers by the same greeting. I expect many people would have thought he was a cowboy ("Howdy Partner") but would still have understood him.

If someone said, "Scotland lost the rugby." Nigel might have replied with something like "That is a bit of an underbid". He brought the whole language of bridge to the non-bridge world, and everyone loved him for it..



This is Nigel the day he beat me at tennis in Turkey. In my defence, he practiced all day while I propped up the bar and he played me

at 10pm at night in the dark. He still won though.

My dad tells a story about getting a late-night call from Nigel who was stuck at the bridge club and needed a lift home. It was a work night and my poor father got out of bed and dutifully drove to the club to take his older brother home. "Ah Tom, I'm just telling everyone about the double squeeze on board 12. I've got some drinks at the bar, but I seem to be out of money, could you sort it out partner?"

When my dad got back from the bar, considerably poorer than when he left, Nigel borrowed his pack of cigarettes from him and handed them out while finishing his story. My dad was stuck there for another few hours and several more rounds of drinks.

That might read as if Nigel was inconsiderate, but nothing could be further from the truth. He was incredibly generous but had no concept of time, possessions, or money. He lived his whole life without a care in the world, and never said a bad word to anybody.

If you don't believe me, there are some comments on Bridge Whingers about him that back this up:
<https://bridgewinners.com/article/view/nigel-guthrie-rip/>

I remember family holidays when Nigel would wander off in some strange village where he didn't speak the language. One of us would eventually find him in a café or bar surrounded by people and he would introduce us to his new friends.

Given 10 minutes Nigel would meet someone and find a topic of conversation that they were both passionate about.

Not surprisingly, given Nigel's early attempts at a medical career, when I came back from a visit to my grandad's and announced that I was going to join a bridge club, aged 12, my parents quickly banned me from playing. Many years later when Julie decided we needed a hobby, as the kids no longer wanted us in the

house, we took up bridge. We had many discussions about bridge with Nigel on family holidays and besides his pure enjoyment of the game, two things stood out to me, that I think we can all use.

The first was a simple piece of advice that he gave me. "If your partner makes a mistake, you need to think very carefully about what you could have done to stop them from making it."

So next time, before you berate your partner for not leading back a heart to beat the contract, think "What could I have done to let my partner know that a heart was the right thing to play."

I don't do this myself of course, I'm merely passing on the advice.

The second thing, which I believe he did a lot in online forums, was that instead of thinking of a bid or play as being right or wrong, he liked to give them marks out of 10. So, when you are deciding what to play, he would rate HK as 10, H4 as 6, DA as 2. Or in bidding: 3H as 9, 2S as 8, Pass as 3. I really like this as bridge is not a black and white game, there is always some grey.

My Uncle Nigel loved many things. He loved his family and friends, he loved late night discussions, he loved cake, and he loved life. But he was born to love bridge, and more important to him than being good at it, was having everyone else enjoy it too.

The next time you play, try to channel a little bit of Nige1. I know I will.

And look out for him on BBO, he is there somewhere enthusiastically congratulating an opponent for a clever defence.

♦ MP – Manager Report



Real Bridge Online

It was reported to me yesterday that there are rumours going around saying NSBC is closing down online bridge on Real Bridge. This is 100% incorrect **Real Bridge is here to stay** so please ignore anyone who tells you otherwise.

The Clubs membership fees, were reduced on 1/Aug for the year ending 31/12/22

	Full Rate	Revised
Full Membership	\$70	\$45
Remote Membership	\$35	\$25

♦ GB – Online Manager Report



INTRODUCTION TO BRIDGE

LESSON

- 2 hour online lesson via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 9:30am.
- Watch the lesson live, or watch the recording whenever you want.
- IT Support available for all.
- No partner required
- Come and join in.

Only
\$150

6 week
course

2hr lessons
and
supervised
play each
week

SUPERVISED PLAY AND PRACTICE

Later in the week, we have a supervised practice session where you can play hands yourself, using your camera and mic to see and chat to the other players at your table.

WHAT OUR PAST PARTICIPANTS HAVE SAID....

"I was worried about the technical stuff, but they helped me with everything."

"I have played with some lovely people, we have lots of laughs and real catch-ups over a coffee."

"Being able to replay the lessons has been a huge help when I've missed a week, or just want to watch it again".

"Everyone has encouraged us to have a go and not made us feel useless."

"I was a reluctant participant in the online course, but I have loved it!"

Contact Kay

moyes_kay@hotmail.com

0416 002 701

www.learnbridgeinsydney.com.au

♦ Major Competitions on Thursday Nights

14	1/5	20	18-Aug	Thursday Night	RB	IMP	Watermark Club Open Teams
	2/5		25-Aug	Thursday Night			
	3/5		1-Sep	Thursday Night			
	4/5		8-Sep	Thursday Night			
	5/5		15-Sep	Thursday Night			
15	2x	10	28-Aug	Sunday	EL	IMP	Swiss Teams Congress
16	1/4	10	22-Sep	Thursday Night	RB	MP	Club (State) Open Pairs Championship
	2/4		29-Sep	Thursday Night			
	3/4		6-Oct	Thursday Night			
	4/4		13-Oct	Thursday Night			
17	2x	10	3-Oct	Monday	EL	MP	Labour Day Pairs Congress
			20-Oct				Sydney Spring Nationals
			27-Oct				Sydney Spring Nationals
	2x		30-Oct	Sunday	EL	IMP	Metro North - Inter-Club Teams
18	1/5	20	3-Nov	Thursday Night	RB	IMP	The Falls Estate Mixed Teams Championship
	2/5		10-Nov	Thursday Night			
	3/5		17-Nov	Thursday Night			
	4/5		24-Nov	Thursday Night			
	5/5		1-Dec	Thursday Night			
	2x		27-Nov	Sunday	EL	MP	Metro North - Inter-Club Pairs
19	1/3	10	8-Dec	Thursday Night	RB	IMP	Club XMAS Teams Championship
	2/3		15-Dec	Thursday Night			
	3/3		22-Dec	Thursday Night			

Information about all Thursday night events can be found on our [Thursday Night Events](#) web page on the website.

Ben Thompson elected First Vice President of the World Bridge Federation



Jan Kamras is the new President of the World Bridge Federation. His term will begin in January 2023.

Jan will replace long serving President Gianarrigo Rona who was elected as President Emeritus of the WBF. Gianarrigo has been a member of the WBF Executive Council and Management Committee since 1999 and served as President from 2010-2022.

On behalf of the Australian Bridge Federation, I thank Gianarrigo for his dedication and service to world bridge.

Australian **Ben Thomson**, Zone 7 President was unanimously elected by the WBF Executive Council as the First Vice President. Congratulations Ben.



Allison Stralow
ABF President



Ben Thompson

♦ RB Club Open Pairs Championship

**58th Club Open MP Pairs Championship (State)**

4x Thursday 22nd Sep -13th Oct on RealBridge
7pm Start 4 Sessions – Match Pointed Pairs Event
Prize Pool: Generous - dependant on entries



This event incorporates the clubs State Pairs Qualifying

- Results will count towards 2022 NSBC Club Champion (Brownie Cup)

Convenor, queries & partnership advice: **Gary Barwick** M: 0413 884 805

Director: **Ronnie Ng**

Entry Management: Enter via NSBC website

Pre-Payments: NSBC Members use PP System, & Visitors use website payment app

Previous 2021 champions:

57th Open Pairs Champions : **Dennis Wan & Henry Chu**

Members (pp) \$56 (4x\$14)

Non Members \$68 (4x\$17)

♦ RB Falls Estate Mixed Teams

**39th “Falls Estate” Mixed Teams Championship**

5x Thursday Night Sessions: 7:00pm

3rd , 10th , 17th , 24th & 1st Dec

Again on RealBridge in 2022

Must Enter for all 5 sessions (Substitutes are allowed) in the club Website by 10pm Wednesday 2nd Nov.

Late entries may be allowed by Convenor at his discretion. 2xCC scoring event for 2021 Club Championship (Brownie Cup) 39th Club Mixed Teams Championship (Imps/VP) (Club Honour Board)

Teams must consist of **true partnerships with the opposite gender** in each played match.

Prizes: Sponsor Supported \$2,500.00 Prize Pool

Convener, queries & partnership advice:

Director : **Ronnie Ng**

Convenor: **Gary Barwick** 0413 884 805

We welcome **all players** who are financial members of the ABF to play in this event.

Yellow Complex Systems are not permitted

Red Point Event

Previous 38th 2021 Mixed team's Champions:

Sophie Ashton - Susan Humphries - Liam Milne - David Beauchamp

Members (PP) \$340 per Team (5 Nights @ \$17pp)

Non Members \$400 per Team (5 Nights @ \$20pp)



♦ EL labour day MP Pairs Congress



Lindfield Rollers Bowling Club
2b Carlyle Road, East Lindfield
Tel: (02) 9415 8344

Labour Day Congress

Matchpoint Pairs @ East Lindfield

Monday: 3rd October
2 Session Event: 10am Start
**Prize Pool: Generous - dependant
on entries**

Convenor, queries & partnership advice: **Mike Prescott**

M: 0435 528 872, Director: **Mike Prescott**

Entry Management: Enter via **MyABF**

Pre-Payments: Visitors MyABF Credits & NSBC Members to
select "Club PP System"

Conducted under the auspices of the NSWBA .

The ABF has approved the issue of red masterpoints at level B4

All players are subject to the NSWBA's Disciplinary Regulations

Complex Yellow Systems are not permitted

2021 RB Winners: **NS: Gary Barwick & Helen Milward**

EW: Cevat Emul & Catherine Zhang

Player Fees (pp) \$45

(Light lunch and snacks provided)

EL Interclub (teams & Pairs)

Margaret Smale 2022 Metro North Interclub Teams Challenge



Sunday 30th October 2022
9.45am for 10am start
Hosted by North Shore Bridge Club
Venue East Lindfield 2b Carlyle Road
East Lindfield Ph 0435 528 872

Join the fun and the challenge!

- One day friendly IMP teams event for novices up
- \$100 per team, includes light lunch, & snacks at the end
- Play in <100, 100-300, 300-750 & >750MP fields (based on team average MPs) - so play against similar teams
- Teams in top half of each field earn their club points
- Teams contribute equally whether novice or open
- Smaller club entries welcome and may combine into "All Stars"-type entries
- Red points - and perpetual Trophy records winning club

Margaret Smale's family provided the perpetual trophy in Margaret's memory.

Director - Ronnie Ng
Convener - Mike Prescott

How to Enter (by 16 May or earlier if full):

- Metro North ABF affiliated clubs can enter 2-3 teams of their club's regular players in each field (3rd team prov.)
- Limit 32 teams - enter early, avoid disappointment
- Club entry form (see bottom) and inquiries to Sue Crompton, 0416 290 867, suecrompton40@gmail.com

2022 Metro North Interclub Online Pairs



Sunday 27th November 2022
9.30am for 10am start
Played at East Lindfield 2b Carlyle Road East Lindfield
Hosted by North Shore Bridge Club

Join the fun and the challenge!

- One day friendly pairs event for rookies up
- Played Face to Face
- \$50 per pair, includes lunch, nibbles, at the end
- Director - Ronnie Ng
- Four fields: Open, U300, U100 & U15 (pair average)
- Pairs in top half of all categories earn club points whether rookie or open
- Bonus point for best photo
- Smaller club entries combined into "All Stars"
- Red points - and perpetual Trophy records winning club
- Instructions emailed to entered players

These interclub events bring clubs and players across our region together.

How to Enter:

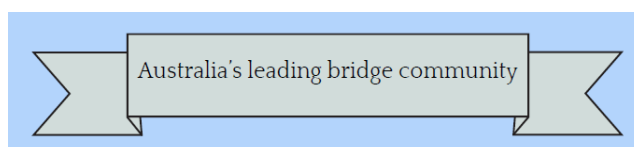
- Metro North ABF affiliated clubs can enter in each field up to 4 pairs plus two reserve pairs of - reserves may play depending on entries
- We recommend clubs reimburse entry fees
- Entry spreadsheet sent to clubs for digital input
- Entry deadline 20 November
- Inquiries to Sue 0416 290 867
- suecrompton40@gmail.com

2023 Draft Congress & Event Days

2023 CC event No	CC Points	Draft Bookings for 2023 NSBC Congress & Special Days					
C1	10	8-Jan	Sunday	RB	IMP	Summer Online Congress Swiss Teams	New
C2	10	29-Jan	Sunday	RB	IMP	Australia Day Weekend Online Swiss Pairs	
C3	10	26-Mar	Sunday	EL	IMP	Pauline Evans F2F Swiss Pairs	
E4	10	4-Mar	Saturdays PM	All Venues	MP	"Hygrove Willoughby" Stratified Pairs	
		11-Mar	Saturdays PM				
		18-Mar	Saturdays PM				
		25-Mar	Saturdays PM				
C5	10	23-Apr	Sunday	EL	IMP	Autumn Online Swiss Pairs	New
E6		17-Jun	Saturday	EL	IMP	"TM&T" Festival Restricted Teams	F e s t i v a l
E7		18-Jun	Sunday	EL	MP	"TM&T" Festival Restricted Pairs	
C8	10	23-Jun	Thursday	RB	MP	"Falls Estate" Matchpoint Swiss Pairs	
C9	10	24-Jun	Friday	EL	IMP	"Watermark" Swiss Pairs	
C10	10	25-Jun	Saturday	RB	IMP	"Falls Estate" Swiss Teams	
C11	20	26-Jun	Sunday	EL	IMP	"TBIB" Open Swiss Teams	
C12	10	30-Jul	Sunday	RB	IMP	Winter Online Swiss Teams	
C13	10	20-Aug	Sunday	EL	IMP	Winter Online Swiss Pairs	
C14	10	27-Aug	Sunday	EL	IMP	EL Swiss Teams Congress	
C15	10	2-Oct	Monday	EL	MP	Labour Day Pairs Congress	
E16		?	Sunday	EL	IMP	Metro North Inter-Club teams	
E17		?	Sunday	EL	MP	Metro North Inter-Club Pairs	
E18		?	Tuesday	RB	Imp	Across the Ditch - Interclub Vs Auckland	

2023 Draft Thursday Nights

CC	Sess	Max CC	Date	When	Ven	Type	2023 CC Thursday Night Events List
T1	1/2		29-Dec	Thursday Night	RB	IMP	Swiss Pairs 2023 Canberra warm-up
	2/2		5-Jan	Thursday Night			
			12-Jan	Thursday Night			Canberra Week walkin
			19-Jan	Thursday Night			Canberra Week walkin
			26-Jan	Thursday Night			Australia day
T2	1/3	10	2-Feb	Thursday Night	RB	IMP	Summer Teams
	2/3		9-Feb	Thursday Night			
	3/3		16-Feb	Thursday Night			
			23-Feb	Thursday Night			Surfers Week Week
T3	1/3	10	2-Mar	Thursday Night	RB	MP	Club Mixed Pairs Championship (State Mixed Qualifer)
	2/3		9-Mar	Thursday Night			
	3/3		16-Mar	Thursday Night			
			23-Mar	Thursday Night	Tassie Week		
T4	1/5	20	30-Mar	Thursday Night	RB	IMP	"Morgans" Swiss Pairs
	2/5		6-Apr	Thursday Night			
	3/5		13-Apr	Thursday Night			
	4/5		20-Apr	Thursday Night			
	5/5		27-Apr	Thursday Night			
			4-May	Thursday Night			Autumn Nats (Adelaide)
T5	1/5	20	11-May	Thursday Night	RB	IMP	GNOT Direct
	2/5		18-May	Thursday Night			
	3/5		25-May	Thursday Night			
	4/5		1-Jun	Thursday Night			
			8-Jun	Thursday Night			VCC Week (Melbourne)
	5/5		15-Jun	Thursday Night			
			23-Jun	Thursday Night	Festival		
T6		10	30-Jun	Thursday Night	RB	MP	Gender Pairs
			7-Jul	Thursday Night			
			14-Jul	Thursday Night	RB	ANC butler (Perth)	
T7		10	21-Jul	Thursday Night	RB	VP	BAM
			28-Jul	Thursday Night			
			4-Aug	Thursday Night			
			11-Aug	Thursday Night			Coffs Week
T8	1/5	20	18-Aug	Thursday Night	RB	IMP	"WaterMark" Club Teams
	2/5		25-Aug	Thursday Night			
	3/5		1-Sep	Thursday Night			
	4/5		8-Sep	Thursday Night			
	5/5		15-Sep	Thursday Night			
T9	1/4	10	22-Sep	Thursday Night	RB	MP	Club Open Pairs Championship (SOP)
	2/4		29-Sep	Thursday Night			
	3/4		6-Oct	Thursday Night			
	4/4		13-Oct	Thursday Night			
			20-Oct	Thursday Night	Spring Nats		
			27-Oct	Thursday Night			
T10	1/5	20	3-Nov	Thursday Night	RB	IMP	The Falls Estate Mixed Teams Championship
	2/5		10-Nov	Thursday Night			
	3/5		17-Nov	Thursday Night			
	4/5		24-Nov	Thursday Night			
	5/5		1-Dec	Thursday Night			
T11	1/2	10	8-Dec	Thursday Night	RB	VP	Club XMAS Teams Championship
	2/2		15-Dec	Thursday Night			



- The NSBC is Australia's **largest Bridge Club with 1508 home Club members**. We are bigger numbers than 3 states.

By State:	ACT	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	Aust	NSBC
Home Club Memers	945	11,113	4,729	6,559	2,172	3,905	828	131	32,024	1,508
Non Home Club Members										324

- We also have 201 full members, whose home club is not NSBC (mostly bridge players with NSWBA home club 2-006 registration).
- We also have 123 "remote members" (other home clubs) playing in events just on our RealBridge platform.

NSBC Membership Numbers	Home Club Members	Non Home Club Members
2-074 East Lindfield	310	14
2-120 North Shore	1198	187
RealBridge (remote members)		123
Total Aug	1508	324
Grand Total Memberships end of Aug	1832	

- We play F2F bridge at East Lindfield Bowling Club (ABF Club number 2-074)
- We play F2F bridge at Willis Recreation Centre (ABF Club Number 2-120)
- We play online bridge using the RealBridge platform (ABF Club Number 2-120)
- We elect an annual **voluntary committee** to manage our non-profit group. The 2022/3 elected members are
 - President - Mark Guthrie
 - Vice president – Jane Russ
 - Secretary – Sharon Thompson
 - Treasurer – Rod Owen
 - 4 Members – Carol McMurray, Ian MacLaren, Jake Andrew
- We employ & contract many staff resources for our bridge sessions
 - 1 General manager (Mike Prescott)
 - 1 Online platform manager (Gary Barwick)
 - 1 admin assistant (Margaret Owen)
 - Many Bridge Directors,
 - National status: Ronnie Ng & Mathew MacManus,
 - Club directors: Sue, Brian, David, Jamie, Jenny, John, Kay, Kim, Liz, Craig, Malcolm, Sandra
 - Bridge teachers: Anita, Jessica, Liz, John, Jamie, Mike, Sue
 - Supervised Volunteer Teachers: Jenny, Liz, Fiona, Anne, June, Sandra, Allan
 - Teams of volunteers running new player supervised sessions, club library, newsletter, website, catering etc

2022 Monthly Table Statistics

100,000 player sessions a year

These table shows the **2022 table numbers** (overall & at each venue), and our club Membership numbers at end of each month.

To AUG = 45440 Player sessions, Likely End of Year= **67,800** player sessions

This table shows just the "August" Table numbers via Venue & Session Type

Aug Tables - Club Venues	Planned Venue Use	Active Tables	Completed Active Sessions	Tables / Session	%Tables	Aug Tables by - Session Type	Active Tables	%Tables
"RB" RealBridge Online Totals	110	936	110	8.50	64.45%	"Open" Type Sessions	955	65%
"EL" East Lindfield F2F Totals	32	336	33	10.18	23.15%	"Restricted" Type Sessions	101	7%
"WS" Willis Sports & Rec Centre	19	180	18	10.00	12.40%	"Rookie" Type Sessions	314	21%
				F2F%=	36%	"Supervised" Type Sessions	82	6%
Aug Totals	161	1452	161	9.02		End of Aug Membership= 1832	1451.5	

2022	Ven Note	Active Tables	No Sess	Avr Tables / Session	Comments	RB Tables	EL Tables	Willis Tables	Net Num of Members at End of month
YTD totals	YTD=	11,360	1112	10.22		8,279	2,250	832	
Jan-22	RB EL WS	1,328	129	10.29	ABF RB Summer Festival, Covid resurgence, RB Congress event , Tables RB=84% Open =71% F2F=16%	1,118	153	57	1,736
Feb-22	RB EL WS	1,317	122	10.80	ABF F2F Surfers, NZB RB Congress, Covid improving, 100 new members from beginner lessons , Members not renewing being removed. Tables RB=80%, Open=68%, F2F=20%	1,050	194	74	1,755
Mar-22	RB EL WS	1,543	141	10.94	ABF F2F Tas, NSBC F2F Congress @ EL , Covid improving, Floods, ABF Home Club annual Membership rationalisation , Mike Prescott back as Mgr, EL Congress Tables RB=79%, Open=66%, F2F=26%	1,137	313	93	1,728
Apr-22	RB EL WS	1,242	119	10.44	NSBC AGM , ABF Adelaide, limited Easter Sessions & Anzac, Tables RB=74%, Open=71%, F2F=25%	918	253	72	1,737
May-22	RB EL WS	1,404	138	10.17	ABF Barrier Reef & River City, EL Charity Day , Tables RB=71%, Open=68%, F2F 29%	992	304	108	1,782
Jun-22	RB EL WS	1,573	158	9.95	ABF VCC, 4 NSBC F2F EL Congress Events , 2 RB Congress events , Restart on Sundays, Tables RB=67%, Open= 70%, F2F= 33%	1,049	400	125	1,803
Jul-22	RB EL WS	1,478	138	10.71	ABF 2Week ANC, Ditch Interclub , 1 RB Teams Congress , WS opened on Friday , Tables RB=71%, Open= 70%, F2F= 29%	1,056	298	124	1,814
Aug-22	RB EL WS	1,452	161	9.02	ABF Coffs, 1 EL Teams Congress . EL & WS Open Pairs Tables RB=64%, Open= 65%, F2F= 36%	936	336	180	1,832